

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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## **Service members improve combat skills during Golden Coyote**

By Spc. Kristin Lichius – 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Service members and allied forces attended warrior training lanes throughout the Black Hills, June 13-20, during the Golden Coyote training exercise.

The training lanes provide an opportunity for service members to practice their basic Soldier skills and battle drills in a simulated combat environment.

“Completing these lanes helps Soldiers build confidence in their abilities,” said Lt. Col. Troy Ness, officer in charge of the training lanes. “They’re able to have fun while completing training that reinforces the skills they would use in a combat environment.”

Units attending Golden Coyote can participate in eight different types of training that focus on Soldier skills like, performing immediate lifesaving measures and evacuating a casualty, patrolling an urban environment, convoy operations, engaging opposing forces and reacting to an improvised explosive device.

“Lanes like these are very important because they provide the building blocks for the skills troops use overseas,” said Capt. Bracken Robinson, officer in charge of the urban patrol lane, 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, South Dakota National Guard. “The more opportunities they have to practice, the more they can rely on their skills.”

Soldiers who participate in the Golden Coyote training exercise not only get the opportunity to train with other units, but also get the chance improve their mission readiness.

“These types of lanes allow us to train in scenarios that simulate real world events,” said Spc. Derrick Kuenning, a military police officer, 561st Regional Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve from Nebraska, who participated in the urban patrol course. “It was a really fun experience.”

Not all of the training lanes focus on simulated combat scenarios. The Leadership Reaction Course is designed to build leadership confidence and team unity. Groups must maneuver through obstacles relying on limited resources and the creativity of their unit members.

“Good communication is necessary to get through the obstacles in this lane,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Johnson, platoon sergeant, 1138th Transportation Company, Missouri National Guard. “Something like this really builds trust between unit members and a chance for junior enlisted members to take on a leadership role.”

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact the SDNG Public Affairs Office at (605) 737-6721 or e-mail [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil)



**170615-Z-BP728-0009:** U.S. Soldiers from Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska participate in the urban patrol training lane during the Golden Coyote exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 15, 2017. The training lanes provide an opportunity for service members to improve their Soldier skills in a simulated combat environment. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)



**170615-Z-BP728-0025:** U.S. Soldiers of the 137th Transportation Company, Kansas Army National Guard participate in the urban patrol training lane during the Golden Coyote exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 15, 2017. The training lanes provide an opportunity for service members to improve their Soldier skills in a combat simulated environment. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristin Lichius)



**170613-A-NN123-181:** U.S. Soldiers of the 1138th Transportation Company, Missouri Army National Guard participate in the Leadership Reaction Course in support of the Golden Coyote exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 13, 2017. The Golden Coyote exercise is a three-phase, scenario-driven exercise conducted in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, which enables commanders to focus on mission essential task requirements, warrior tasks and drills. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeffery Harris)



**170613-A-NN123-284:** U.S. Soldiers of the 1138th Transportation Company, Missouri Army National Guard roll a barrel to the opposite side of the obstacle in the Leadership Reaction Course in support the Golden Coyote exercise, Rapid City, S.D., June 13, 2017. The Golden Coyote exercise is a three-phase, scenario-driven exercise conducted in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, which enables commanders to focus on mission essential task requirements, warrior tasks and drills. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jeffery Harris)



**170614-Z-ZZ999-0001:** U.S. Soldiers participate in the Combat Life Savers training course during Golden Coyote, Rapid City, S.D., June 14, 2017. The training provides service members the opportunity to practice life saving medical skills that could be utilized in a combat environment. (U.S. Army courtesy photo)



**170614-Z-ZZ999-0002:** U.S. Soldiers participate in the Combat Life Savers training course during Golden Coyote, Rapid City, S.D., June 14, 2017. The training provides service members the opportunity to practice life saving medical skills that could be utilized in a combat environment. (U.S. Army courtesy photo)